

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for lottery ~~pooling~~ pool management ~~system~~ over a communications network comprising:

a participant interface[[,]] ~~the participant interface~~ being configured to be in communication with [[a]] plural participant ~~computer~~ computers, the said participant interface also being configured to enable each of a plurality of pool participants to participate together in one or more lottery pools, each lottery pool being associated with a lottery and having a plurality of sets of numbers entered in its associated lottery, said participant interface enabling said pool participants to exchange information regarding each of said lotteries prior to the drawing thereof;

said participant interface being further configured to enable each of said pool participants to be informed by way of said participant computers, respectively, of all ~~the~~ of said sets of lottery numbers that are entered by respective pool participants in each of said lotteries prior to the drawing thereof;

a lottery interface[[,]] ~~the lottery interface being~~ in communication with each of said lotteries and ~~the~~ said participant interface, ~~the~~ said lottery interface being configured to ascertain drawing results and jackpot amounts

for each of said lotteries, to compare the drawing results with the said sets of lottery numbers entered in the one or more lottery pools, and to recognize that a winning event has occurred when a given one of said sets of lottery numbers is drawn as a winning set for its corresponding lottery; and

a notification interface~~[[,]]~~ ~~the notification interface~~ ~~being~~ in communication with ~~the~~ said participant interface and ~~the~~ said lottery interface, ~~the~~ said notification interface being configured to alert said ~~plurality of~~ pool participants by way of said participant computers, respectively, about activity in each of said lotteries, about the compared drawing results, and, when one of said winning events occurs, to notify each of said ~~plurality of~~ pool participants that they are each entitled to share in all amounts that are to be paid out as the result of said given set of lottery numbers being drawn as a winning set.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ said participant interface includes a lottery pool creation module to allow pool participants to respectively create new lottery pools by way of one or more participant computers.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ said participant interface includes a ticket entry module to allow pool participants to enter tickets numbers into the lottery pools associated with ~~the~~ said pool participants, and to change ticket numbers that were entered previously.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein said ~~plurality of~~ pool participants are each members of a club disposed to participate in a number of successive lotteries,

and wherein ~~the~~ said participant interface includes a participant history module to allow pool participants to track the history of numbers chosen and played by ~~the~~ said pool participants in one or more previous lotteries; and

said notification interface is configured to notify each of said club members when a lottery reaches a specified jackpot level.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the participant interface includes a second chance module to allow pool participants to replay numbers.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the lottery interface is further configured to retrieve rules and regulations associated with the one or more lotteries.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the lottery interface includes a ticket purchasing module to allow the system to purchase tickets for the one or more lotteries at the request of pool participants.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the activity in the one or more lotteries is a completed drawing.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the activity in the one or more lotteries is an updated jackpot amount.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1 further including one or more databases.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the one or more databases contain information concerning the one or more sets of lottery numbers.

12. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the one or more databases contain information concerning the one or more lottery pools.

13. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the one or more databases contain information concerning the pool participants.

14. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the one or more databases contain information concerning the one or more lotteries.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of arranging a lottery pool via a global communications network comprising the steps of:

admitting a plurality of participants into a group by way of respective participant computers connected to said network, said group comprising said lottery pool, wherein the total number of said admitted pool participants is limited to a maximum number selected by a pool participant designated as pool master;

contributing one or more sets of lottery numbers to said lottery pool by recording said one or more sets of lottery numbers on a pool management computer, and wherein said one or more sets of lottery numbers are contributed either by said pool master, by another pool participant or by different pool participants, selectively;

entering said one or more sets of contributed lottery numbers into a selected lottery;

retrieving drawing results and jackpot amounts from said selected lottery[[,]] ~~comparing~~ and causing said management computer to compare the drawing results with said one or more sets of lottery numbers;

recognizing that a winning event has occurred when a given one of said sets of contributed lottery numbers is drawn as a winning set in said selected lottery; and

notifying each of said pool participants by way of respective ones of said participant computers when said winning event occurs, and further notifying each of said pool participants that they are each entitled to a share in every amount that is to be paid out as the result of said given set of lottery numbers being drawn as a winning set.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein each of said pool participants contributes at least one of said sets of lottery numbers for said selected lottery.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the step of notifying is performed through electronic mail.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein said group of pool participants is limited to said pool master, and to others receiving from the pool master an invitation to join the group and a password for accessing a related system.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~18~~ 15 wherein ~~the step of alerting is performed by a varying color scheme~~ said pool participants are alerted as to the amount of time remaining before a lottery closes to at least one of purchase of tickets for said lottery and entry of sets of

numbers for said lottery by one of displaying time data and displaying a color on said participant computers, respectively.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the compared drawing results identify any matches between said one or more sets of lottery numbers entered in said selected lottery, and the drawing results of said selected lottery.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20 ~~wherein the matches are~~ including the step of causing matches to be highlighted on a display of one or more participant computers.

22. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the global communications network is the Internet.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium to arrange lottery pools via a global communications network comprising:

a code segment to allow the creation of one or more exclusive lottery pools, each exclusive lottery pool being associated with a lottery;

a code segment to admit one or more ~~each of a plurality of~~ participants to said one or more lottery pools by way of one or more participant computers to increase the chances for each of said participants to win one or more of said lotteries;

a code segment to receive one or more ~~a plurality of~~ sets of lottery numbers into each of ~~the exclusive~~ said one or more lottery pools, each of said sets of lottery numbers corresponding to ~~one of~~ said one or more pool participants;

a code segment to retrieve drawing results and jackpot amounts from ~~the~~ at least one lottery of said one or more lotteries;

a code segment to compare the drawing results with the one or more sets of lottery numbers, and to recognize that a winning event has occurred when a given one of said sets of lottery numbers is drawn as a winning set for its corresponding lottery; and

a code segment to notify each of said one ~~of the plurality of~~ or more pool participants of the compared drawing results, of each of said winning events that occurs in any of the lottery pools, of all jackpot amounts and any other amounts that are to be paid out as the result of said given set of lottery numbers being drawn as a winning set, and that all of said jackpot amounts and said any other amounts are to be shared by each one of ~~the plurality of~~ said one or more pool participants.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 23 further including a code segment to purchase sets of lottery numbers.

25. (Canceled).

26. (Canceled).

27. (Canceled).

28. (Canceled).

29. (Original) The computer program of claim 23 wherein the global communications network is the Internet.

30. (Previously Presented) A system for lottery pool management over a global communications network comprising:

one or more participant computers;

one or more lottery pool management servers, the one or more lottery pool management servers being in communication with the one or more participant computers through the global communications network; and

a lottery pool management system resident on the one or more lottery pool management servers, wherein the lottery pool management system includes:

a participant interface, the participant interface being in communication with a participant computer, the participant interface being configured to enable each of a plurality of pool participants to participate as members of a group having a common interest in one or more different lottery pools, wherein each lottery pool is associated with a different lottery and each lottery pool has a plurality of sets of lottery numbers respectively provided by one or more of said pool participants;

a lottery interface, the lottery interface being in communication with one or more lotteries and the participant interface, the lottery interface being configured to ascertain drawing results and jackpot amounts for the one or more lotteries, to compare the drawing results with the sets of lottery numbers in the one or more lottery pools, and to recognize that a winning event has occurred when a given one of said sets of lottery numbers is drawn as a winning set for its corresponding lottery; and

a notification interface, the notification interface being in communication with the participant interface and the lottery interface, the notification interface being configured to alert said plurality of pool participants about activity in the one or more lotteries, about the compared drawing results, and, when one of said winning events occurs, to notify each of said plurality of pool participants that they are each entitled to share in all amounts that are to be paid out as the result of said given set of lottery numbers being drawn as a winning set.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30 wherein the participant interface includes a lottery pool creation module to allow pool participants to respectively create new lottery pools.

32. (Canceled).

33. (Canceled).

34. (Canceled).

35. (Canceled).

36. (Canceled).

37. (Canceled).

38. (Canceled).

39. (Canceled).

40. (Canceled).

41. (Canceled).

42. (Canceled).

43. (Canceled).

44. (Canceled).

45. (Currently Amended) A lottery pooling management system configured for operation on an electronic communications network, said system comprising:

a participant interface, the participant interface being in communication with a participant computer, the participant interface being configured to increase the chances for each of a plurality of pool participants to win a lottery by enabling each of said plurality of pool participants to participate as members of a group having a common interest in one or more lottery pools, wherein each lottery is limited to a single elective participation event, at least one lottery pool comprising different sets of lottery numbers respectively provided by one participant or by different participants, selectively;

a lottery interface, the lottery interface being in communication with one or more lotteries and the participant interface, the lottery interface being configured to ascertain drawing results and jackpot amounts for the one or more lotteries to compare the drawing results with the one or more sets of lottery numbers in the one or more lottery pools, and to recognize that a winning event has occurred when a given one of said sets of lottery numbers is drawn as a winning set for the single elective participation event of its corresponding lottery; ~~and~~

a notification interface, the notification interface being in communication with the participant interface and the

lottery interface, the notification interface being configured to alert said plurality of pool participants about activity in the one or more lotteries, about the compared drawing results, and, when one of said winning events occurs, to notify each of said plurality of pool participants that they are each entitled to share a jackpot amount resulting from said given set of lottery numbers being a winning set; and

said interfaces being resident on a lottery pool management computer connected to one or more participant computers by way of said network.

46. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 45 wherein the participant interface includes a lottery pool creation module to allow pool participants to respectively create new lottery pools.

47. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 45 wherein the participant interface includes a ticket entry module to allow pool participants to enter tickets numbers into the lottery pools associated with the pool participants and to edit the ticket entries.

48. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 45 wherein the participant interface includes a participant history module to allow pool participants to track the history of numbers chosen and played by the pool participants.

49. (New) The system of claim 45 wherein said lottery interface includes a comparison module operable to compare the drawing results for first time winners and for second chance winners among said participants.

50. (New) The system of claim 45 wherein said lottery interface includes a ticket purchase module operable to enable said lottery interface to purchase tickets through said communications network for said pool participants by way of one of direct purchase by said pool participants and purchases coordinated by said lottery interface.

51. (New) The system of claim 45 including a module for displaying on a participant computer a report showing at least one of the number of entries of sets of numbers by participants and the number of matches of winning numbers entered by respective participants.